

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A contact pad for a circuit board, the contact
2 pad comprising:

3 a central portion; and

4 a plurality of spokes extending from the central
5 portion.

1 2 2. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein the central
portion is substantially circular.

1 2 3. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein each of the
plurality of spokes is substantially rectangular in
shape.

1 2 3. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein one of the
plurality of spokes is electrically connected to a
metallic trace on the circuit board.

1 2 5. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein the circuit
board is a printed circuit board.

1 2 6. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein there are
four spokes extending radially outwardly from the
substantially circular portion.

1 2 7. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein the plurality
of spokes are substantially evenly spaced around the
substantially circular portion.

1 8. The contact pad of claim 1, further comprising a
2 solder mask at outer tips of the spokes.

1 9. The contact pad of claim 1, wherein contact pad
2 is made of a conductive material.

1 10. A contact pad for a circuit board, the contact
2 pad comprising:

3 a central portion; and
4 means extending from the central portion for
5 providing additional surface area of the contact pad to
6 which a solder ball may attach.

1 11. The contact pad of claim 10, wherein the
2 central portion includes an opening in a center thereof.

1 12. A contact pad for a circuit board, the contact
2 pad comprising:

3 a substantially circular portion; and
4 means extending from the substantially circular
5 portion for providing additional surface area of the
6 contact pad to which a solder ball may attach.

1 13. The contact pad of claim 12, wherein the
2 substantially circular portion includes an opening in a
3 center thereof.

1 14. A circuit board, comprising:
2 a nonconductive substrate;

3 a plurality of electrically conductive contact pads,
4 each of the contact pads having a central portion; and a
5 plurality of spokes extending from the central portion;
6 and

7 an electrically conductive trace interconnecting the
8 contact pads.

1 15. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein the
2 central portion is substantially circular.

1 16. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein each of
2 the plurality of spokes is substantially rectangular in
3 shape.

1 17. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein one of
2 the plurality of spokes is electrically connected to the
3 trace on the circuit board.

1 18. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein the
2 circuit board is a printed circuit board.

1 19. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein each of
2 the contact pads has four spokes extending radially
3 outwardly from the substantially circular portion.

1 20. The circuit board of claim 14, wherein on at
2 least one of the contact pads, the plurality of spokes
3 are substantially evenly spaced around the substantially
4 circular portion.

1 21. A contact pad for a circuit board, the contact
2 pad comprising a conductive material arranged in a shape
3 having a perimeter that is at least 5% longer in length
4 than a circumference of a circle having a diameter that
5 is equal to a distance between the two points on the
6 perimeter of the contact pad that are farthest away from
7 each other.

1 22. The contact pad of claim 21, wherein the
2 perimeter is at least 10% longer than the diameter.

1 23. The contact pad of claim 21, wherein the
2 perimeter is at least 15% longer than the diameter.

1 24. The contact pad of claim 21, wherein the
2 perimeter is at least 20% longer than the diameter.

1 25. The contact pad of claim 21, wherein the
2 perimeter is at least 30% longer than the diameter.